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Wednesday, May 24, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

## "SHE STARTED IT!"

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# HIGH ALERT

Britain has increased its security threat level to 'critical' from 'severe' following the attack. 4

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## EX-CIA CHIEF SAYS HE WARNED RUSSIA IN 2016

1 Former CIA director John Brennan said that he had seen signs of possible collusion between Moscow and President Donald Trump's 2016 election campaign that merited investigation and had warned Russia last year about meddling in the election. Brennan, who left as CIA chief when Trump took office in January, said it became clear last summer Russia was trying to interfere in the election,

and he warned the head of Russia's FSB security service that such interference would hurt U.S. ties. U.S. intelligence agencies concluded in January that Moscow tried to tilt the election in Trump's favor, including by hacking into the emails of senior Democrats. REUTERS

## US, EU MEET ON AVIATION SECURITY

2 U.S. and EU officials meet in Washington this week for further talks on aviation security, as the EU braces for an extension of a cabin ban on large electronic devices to U.S.-bound flights from Europe. The EU has, over the last two weeks, given the U.S. information about measures taken by the EU to improve security and has raised the safety risks posed by having large numbers of devices with lithium-ion batteries in the hold. The EU fears the United States has already made up its mind to extend the ban on flights from Europe to the United States and has told airports and airlines to be prepared, according to notes from a meeting, seen by Reuters, in which the European Commission debriefed industry representatives and member states on the result of talks with the United States. REUTERS

## UBER INADVERTENTLY UNDERPAID NYC DRIVERS

3 Uber Technologies Inc. said on Tuesday it underpaid its New York City drivers for the past two-and-a-half years, an error that could cost the ride-hailing company tens of millions of dollars. Uber generally takes a commission from its drivers after deducting taxes and some fees, but it instead took a higher percentage from its New York City drivers using the full fare before accounting for sales taxes and fees, according to The Wall Street Journal, which first reported the news. Uber usually takes a 25 percent commission from U.S. drivers under a November 2014 nationwide driver agreement, the report said. The company could pay drivers back at least $45 million, averaging at about $900 per driver, the Journal reported. REUTERS

## 5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

## SORROW IN MANCHESTER

4 A woman is consoled as she looks at the floral tributes following an evening vigil outside the Town Hall on Tuesday in Manchester, England.
GETTY IMAGES

## COURT: WIKIPEDIA CAN PURSUE NSA LAWSUIT

5 A federal appeals court Tuesday revived a Wikipedia lawsuit that challenges a U.S. National Security Agency program of mass online surveillance and claims that the government unconstitutionally invades people's privacy rights. By a 3-0 vote, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, said the Wikimedia Foundation, which hosts the Wikipedia online encyclopedia, can pursue a challenge to the government's "Upstream" surveillance program. The decision could make it easier for people to learn whether authorities have spied on them through Upstream, which involves bulk searches of international communications within the internet's "backbone" of cables, switches and routers. Upstream's existence was revealed in leaks by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden in 2013. REUTERS

## WELCOME TO METRO.US!

ERIN TIERNAN, WEB REPORTER
Fox News host Sean Hannity pushes a conspiracy theory connecting a DNC staffer's murder with the Wikileaks email dump. Fox News retracted a May 16 story peddling the theory, but one of their star hosts is still talking about it.
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Police forensic investigators at an address in Elsmore Road, Greater Manchester, after a suicide bomber killed 22 people, including children, as an explosion tore through fans leaving a pop concert in Manchester, England. GETTY IMAGES

# Britain raises threat level, braces for risk of more attacks

The UK increased its nationwide security level to 'critical,' meaning another attack could be imminent.

Britain has increased its security threat level to "critical," meaning that another attack could be imminent, following Monday night's suicide bombing that killed 22 people, Prime Minister Theresa May said in a televised statement.

"It is a possibility we cannot ignore that there is a wider group of individuals linked to this attack," May said. "It is now concluded, on the basis of today's investigations, that the threat level should be increased for the time being from severe to critical. A further attack may be imminent."

May said that members of the armed forces would boost security at key sites and military personnel might be deployed at public events such as concerts and sports events.

British police on Tuesday identified the suicide bomber who killed 22 people, including children, in an attack on a crowded concert hall in Manchester, and said they were trying to establish whether he had acted alone or with help from others.

The man suspected of carrying out Britain's deadliest bombing in nearly 12 years was named as Salman Abedi, 22, but police declined to give further details about him.

U.S. security sources, citing British intelligence officials, said he was born in Manchester in 1994 to parents of Libyan origin. He is believed to have traveled by train from London before the attack, they said.

"Our priority, along with the police counter-terrorism network and our security partners, is to continue to establish whether he was acting alone or working as part of a wider network," Manchester Police Chief Constable Ian Hopkins said.

The attacker set off his improvised bomb as crowds streamed out of the Manchester Arena after a pop concert by Ariana Grande, a U.S. singer especially popular with teenage girls.

Islamic State, now being driven from territories in Syria and Iraq by Western-backed armed forces, claimed responsibility for what it called a revenge attack against "crusaders," but there appeared to be contradictions in its account of the operation.

Witnesses related the horror of the blast, which unleashed a stampede just as the concert ended at Europe's largest indoor arena, full to its capacity of 21,000.

"We ran and people were screaming around us and pushing on the stairs to go outside and people were falling down, girls were crying, and we saw these women, being treated by paramedics, having open wounds on their legs ... it was just chaos," said Sebastian Diaz, 19. "It was literally just a minute after it ended, the lights came on and the bomb went off."

A video posted on Twitter showed fans, many of them young, screaming and running from the venue. Dozens of parents frantically searched for their children, posting photos and pleading for information on social media.

Singer Grande, 23, said on Twitter she was devastated: "broken. from the bottom of my heart, i am so so sorry. i don't have words."

The attack was the deadliest in the UK since four British Muslims killed 52 people in suicide bombings on London's transport system in 2005. But it will have reverberations far beyond British shores. REUTERS

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Jenavia Weaver, Eric Nzerbie and Phoebe Coles chat during Tuesday's On the Table Philly event held at Reading Terminal Market. HAYDEN MITMAN

# Putting race relations 'On the Table'

At On the Table Philly, real people talked about real problems.

HAYDEN MITMAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

All over Philadelphia on Tuesday, local residents joined with community organizers, members of nonprofit groups, volunteers and others to share a meal and discuss some of the biggest questions facing the city today.

The events were all part of On the Table Philly, an initiative of the Philadelphia Foundation and the Knight Foundation aimed at bringing people together to discuss issues in their communities.

A wide variety of topics was discussed at lunch spots throughout the city, but at Reading Terminal Market, attendees tackled an issue that has beguiled many for decades – race relations.

"This is not about what we want to get from today. It's about what we can start today," said Eric Nzerbie, organizer of the lunch meeting and publisher of Funtimes magazine, a publication that caters to African immigrants in Philadelphia.

Nzerbie, who originally began publishing his magazine in Monrovia, Liberia, said that in a city like Philadelphia, where there are many people from a diverse array of backgrounds, traditions and religions, in order to come together, residents need to have conversations like the one at Reading Terminal Market.

"We are starting to have this conversation… I'm not looking for a solution. It's just that we need to have this conversation," he said. "It's all about building bridges."

It was Philadelphia's first time hosting these On the Table events, which were held throughout the city and covered topics like mental health, community and education, LGBTQ issues and economic development. They've previously taken place in cities like Chicago and Lexington, Kentucky.

Attendees at Reading Terminal Market talked about the role of race in the community and the different relationships that individuals have with law enforcement depending on their race, and they tossed around ways that people from different backgrounds and cultures might be able to find common ground.

Phoebe Coles, CEO of Community Marketing Concepts, an organizer of the meeting at the market, said that she wanted the day's conversation to be more than just a place for people to air grievances over race.

She was hoping those in attendance could help find common ground.

"How do we stop looking at this as a glass half full?" she asked everyone at the event. "How do we stop looking at the things we don't have?"

To Jenavia Weaver,

*"It's all about building bridges."*
Eric Nzerbie

COO of Rhythm and Rhyme Edutainment Genius Productions, one of the best tools to bring people together was music. Weaver said that through the shared love of music, people of all colors, backgrounds and religions can come together.

"I live in Philadelphia, and it's important to be in any conversation that's going to address race," she said.

Eric Edi, president and COO of Africom, a group that advocates for African and Caribbean immigrants in America, said that the best part of On the Table's discussion on race relations might simply have been the fact that they were able to have the conversation at all.

"This is not an easy conversation, it's a very difficult topic," Edi said. "It's good to be at a table with people I don't know."

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Price Johnson was shot in Friday night's attack. PROVIDED

# Police share video of men sought in toddler's shooting

Police released surveillance video of the suspects in the shooting of a toddler.

HAYDEN MITMAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

The Philadelphia Police have released surveillance footage of the suspects they believe are responsible for last weekend's shooting that injured two people in the city's Kensington neighborhood, including a one-year-old boy.

On Tuesday morning, police shared surveillance video that was filmed on Friday, May 19, which law enforcement officials said shows the two black males believed to be responsible for the shooting that occurred that evening along the 3300 block of Malta Street.

As can be seen on the footage, the two men that police believe are responsible for the shooting — both believed to be in their 20s — rode bikes along nearby Potter Street, just moments before the 9:17 p.m. shooting.

The victim, identified by his family as Price Johnson, remains hospitalized in stable condition.

According to police, the shooting occurred when the two wanted males rode their bikes up to a home along Malta Street, where a 25-year-old male was sitting with the one-year-old boy. The men shouted, "This is our block," police said, before they opened fire, striking the older male once in his knee and hitting the toddler multiple times.

One of the shooters was described as having braids, wearing a black shirt and carrying a dark colored duffel bag at the time of the incident, while police said, the other stood about five-foot, 11-inches tall and was wearing a light-colored shirt at that time.

After the shooting, law enforcement officials believe both suspects fled and were last seen south on Malta Street toward Westmoreland Street.

Following the incident, the older male was transported to Temple Hospital and the young boy was transported to St. Christopher's Hospital where, law enforcement officials said, as of Tuesday morning, they were both listed in stable condition.

*Police are asking anyone who may have any information about this crime or these wanted individuals to contact the Philadelphia Police's East Detective Division at 215-686-3243-3244. You can also leave a tip anonymously by calling 215-686-TIPS (8477) or sending a text to PPD TIP (or 773847).*

## TRUMP ABROAD

**Trump arrives in Italy to meet Pope Francis, Italian leaders**

President Donald Trump arrived in Italy on Tuesday ahead of meetings with Pope Francis and Italian leaders, on the third leg of his first international trip since taking office.

Trump's meeting with the head of the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics on Wednesday comes after the pair sparred at a distance on issues including migration, climate change and Islam.

Air Force One arrived from Israel at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport, where Trump and his wife, Melania, were greeted by Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano.

The pair were then driven to the central Rome residence of the U.S. ambassador – a post to which Trump has yet to name anyone. They had no official engagements on Tuesday evening. REUTERS

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# "RIP Mr Bond": 007 actor Roger Moore dead at 89

Actor Roger Moore, who earned international fame playing British secret agent James Bond in seven movies, died of cancer on Tuesday at the age of 89, his family said.

His 12 years as action man 007, the fictitious spy with a voracious appetite for danger and sex, made Moore a millionaire and a heart-throb the world over, though in reality he was a shy, private man who found some of Bond's escapades embarrassing.

"It is with a heavy heart that we must announce our loving father, Sir Roger Moore, has passed away today in Switzerland after a short but brave battle with cancer," his three children announced in a statement on his Twitter account.

Tributes poured in from celebrities including actors Russell Crowe and Mia Farrow and from UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, for which he worked as a "goodwill ambassador".

The official Twitter feed of British composer Andrew Lloyd Webber posted, "Farewell dearest Roger, All our love" while U.S. reality TV star Kris Jenner dubbed Moore "the ultimate James Bond".

"Breaking Bad" star Bryan Cranston tweeted: "Saddened @sirroger moore passed today. Had a great chat about acting & life 6 mo. ago. Generous and kind. RIP Mr. Bond."

The son of a London policeman, Moore once said the upper-crust image he portrayed both on and off the screen was a carefully nurtured cover for his shyness and timidity.

"I couldn't walk into a restaurant on my own for 20 or 30 years ...," he once said, saying that all changed when he found fame in the role. "(But) that's not really me. Timid me would rather stay home and have a sandwich."

Moore said he was terrified by the stunts he had to perform as Bond and would steel himself before facing the cameras in sex scenes with a mixture of Valium and beer. REUTERS

Sir Roger Moore GETTY IMAGES

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# Trump seeks to slash $3.6 trillion of spending in austere budget

Republicans are under pressure to deliver on promised tax cuts, the cornerstone of the administration's pro-business economic agenda.

President Donald Trump wants lawmakers to cut $3.6 trillion in government spending over the next decade, taking aim in an austere budget unveiled Tuesday at healthcare and food-assistance programs for the poor while boosting the military.

Republicans who control the Congress — and the federal purse strings — will decide whether to make politically sensitive cuts, and the proposal is unlikely to be approved in its current form.

Although it is not expected to survive on Capitol Hill, the proposal puts numbers on Trump's vision of the role of government: a budget with radical cuts to government assistance to lower-income Americans.

The biggest savings would come from cuts to the Medicaid healthcare program for the poor made as part of a Republican healthcare bill passed by the House of Representatives.

Trump wants lawmakers to cut more than $800 billion from Medicaid, and more than $192 billion from food stamps over a decade. He seeks to balance the budget by the end of the decade, according to the plan.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a bipartisan public policy organization, said the plan relied on "rosy assumptions," gimmicks and unrealistic cuts.

The budget is based on forecasts for economic growth of 3 percent a year by the end of Trump's first term — well beyond Congressional Budget Office assumptions of 1.9 percent growth.

"While we appreciate the administration's focus on reducing the debt, when using more realistic assumptions, the president's budget does not add up," said Maya MacGuineas, the group's president.

There is some new spending in Trump's plan for fiscal year 2018, which starts in October.

The Pentagon would get a spending hike, and there would be a $1.6 billion down payment to begin building a wall along the border with Mexico, which was a central promise of Trump's presidential campaign.

Trump's proposal foresees selling half of the U.S. emergency oil stockpile, created in 1975 after the Arab oil embargo caused fears of price spikes. The announcement surprised oil markets and briefly pulled down U.S. crude prices.

Mick Mulvaney discusses the proposed federal budget. GETTY IMAGES

But their policy agenda has stalled as the White House grapples with the political fallout from allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

Mick Mulvaney, Trump's budget office director, said the plan is the first one in a long time to pay attention to taxpayers.

Republican leaders in the House said lawmakers would be able to find common ground with the budget plan. REUTERS

*"Yes, you have to have compassion for folks who are receiving the federal funds, but also you have to have compassion for the folks who are paying it."* Mulvaney


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# Boring: Katy Perry confirms Taylor Swift beef

In a desperate bid for attention, Katy Perry has confirmed her so-called beef with rival Taylor Swift. Yawn.

On last night's "Carpool Karaoke," a somehow very popular segment on "The Late Late Show," the 32-year-old — yes, THIRTY-TWO — told James Corden what you told your mother at age 8: Taylor Swift started it.

"She started it, and it's time for her to finish it," she said. "I tried to talk to her about it, and she wouldn't speak to me... [I got] a full shutdown, and then she writes a song about me ['Bad Blood']. ... That's how you want to deal with it? Karma."

This is getting tired. Katy Perry and Taylor Swift, 27, are too old for this tomfoolery. All I see are two women of privilege who are so bored with their mansions and their money and their fame that the only way to bide their time through this slog we call life is to pick fights with each other over nothing. They're literally mad at each other over backup dancers.

This could also very well be a poorly planned ploy to boost album sales but either way, I'm over it.

# This season of "The Bachelorette" should be interesting, I guess

What a night.

Monday night, "The Bachelorette" premiered featuring Rachel Lindsay, the series' first black lead. As a newcomer to the show, I was all like, "Is this for real?" Turns out it is! Here are the most-WTF moments from the premiere.

Adam brought along with him AJ, a voodoo doll missing its pins. It was really creepy. Meet the 32nd bachelor, everybody!

Neo-Nazi Richard Spencer is a bad dude. Blake E. is a contestant that talks about his penis a lot and maybe has a sex addiction. Do they look alike? Kind of!

Rachel has her first kiss with Bryan. His whole thing is that he is Colombian and fluent in Spanish, and boy, it's taking him far. I would prefer him to be spending his time with Rachel working through the subjunctive, but hey. Despite being black and named Rachael, I'm not the Bachelorette!

I'm saving the absolute worst for last. Lucas is an obnoxious (probably contractual) nightmare. I am very convinced that he will make some woman very unhappy one day, and that woman will not be Rachel.

# A buddy comedy starring Rihanna and Lupita is all I've ever wanted

I've never wanted something so dang badly. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Thanks to the magic of Twitter, there's going to be a buddy comedy starring Rihanna and Lupita Nyong'o. Because it's the future, and anything is possible!

According to Jezebel, the movie idea started on Tumblr, migrated to Twitter and its next step is a fully formed film. Ava DuVernay will direct, and Issa Rae of "Insecure" will write. This is some real #blackgirlmagic, OK?

Last year, Twitter user @1800SADGAL noted that in this picture, "Rihanna looks like she scams rich white men and lupita is the computer smart best friend that helps plan the [scams]." The tweet went viral. Rihanna and Lupita agreed — hey, this is a damn fine idea. Ava Duvernay was all, I'm in! Issa Rae was like, I'm writing it now. Things were hypothetically happening!

Now, after an aggressive round of bidding, Netflix has won the rights. I would say let's not get too excited until we have tangible proof, but Ryan Phillippe's thirsty ass already has thrown his hat in the ring, too.

"I'm down to play the rich white [man], jus sayin," he wrote on Twitter.

This is gonna be fun.

# Nicki Minaj is dating Nas, apparently

Well, this is unexpected.

Nicki Minaj appears to be dating — or at the very least having celibate sleepovers with — Nas.

The 34-year-old rapper stopped by "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" to spill on her new relationship. "We're both from Queens," she told Ellen. "He is the King of Queens and I'd like to think I am the Queen of Queens. He is a rap legend. I have a lot of respect for him. And he's cute, too."

Minaj also dished on her plans to stay celibate. Because, I don't even know. "I'm just chillin' right now," she admitted. "I'm celibate. I wanted to go a year without dating any man. I hate men… I might make an exception to the rule for him 'cause he's so dope." Oh, dear.

Congrats to the happy maybe couple!

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# Topher Grace thinks Brad Pitt makes all the best movies now

The actor talks "War Machine" and his love of Bob Odenkirk.

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Topher Grace has had a crazy career. He could have been Eric Forman, his deadpanning "That '70s Show" everydude, forever. Instead, he's always taken roles that broke away from that type. He was an entitled rich kid druggie in "Traffic." He was a comic book villain in "Spider-Man 3." He was a bureaucratic baddie in "Predators." Now he's in "War Machine," playing Matt Little, a douchey press advisor who winds up in Afghanistan during the Obama presidency. Brad Pitt both produced the satirical comedy and stars as a character based on disgraced Gen. Stanley McChrystal, who was sent to America's other recent big war to sort out the counter-insurgency. What everyone there found was a hot mess not even the mightiest of military brass could fix.

**I know you're a big fan of "Mr. Show," Bob Odenkirk and David Cross' classic sketch comedy show. You haven't yourself done a lot of that kind of comedy, apart from hosting "Saturday Night Live" back in 2005.**

I remember feeling like, "Oh, I'm not very good at sketch comedy!" [Laughs] It's a real skill. I really gained more respect for people who have it. Like Melissa McCarthy, who can just go in there and nail it. When I was on there I just wound up playing the normal guy in every sketch — the guy who's setting up another character. Which I was totally fine with, because I'm not good at that stuff.

**You don't think you can do wacky characters?**

No. When I arrived there on the first day, when they read through all the sketches, I realized, "This isn't really my jam." I was on a sitcom, but even there I enjoyed the quieter moments a little more. But if you look at Bob Odenkirk, he's someone who's great at both. I can't even imagine how to do that. In that new

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Topher Grace plays Matt Little, a press agent who finds himself working in Afghanistan in "War Machine," on Netflix this Friday. NETFLIX

"Bob & David" thing [the "Mr. Show" reunion show from Netflix], they did this sketch where Bob's a Bible salesman. And he was combining real AMC-drama-level stuff with outlandish comedy. My hat's off to anyone who can do both.

**"War Machine" is funny, too, but not in a wacky way. It's more satirical.**
This is a different kind of funny. It's not "ha ha funny." It's "this is happening this week" ironic funny. It's hard to do something like this, an account of what really happened, without humor. But David Michod [the writer/director] had the balls to sugarcoat the pill. That's a great way to get more people to take a look at something they should have more information about. Me included. I kind of remember when Gen. McChrystal was fired, but I didn't know enough about it or about the counter-insurgency.

**I always worry movies like "War Machine" won't be seen or even made. It's a big-budget movie that's not about superheroes, and it almost certainly only exists because Brad Pitt took it to Netflix himself.**
Brad's really smart. His company is producing all the great films right now, including "Moonlight" and "The Big Short" and "12 Years a Slave." Since we made the film, more actors are going to Netflix. But Brad was smart to do it first. I don't think it would have been made or been seen otherwise. Now it's something you can watch. And it sparks conversation. When I saw it with my representatives and my wife, we all started talking afterwards. It's one of those films.

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# Les Dames d'Escoffier scholarship deadline approaching

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Scholarship recipient Robin Kerber spends time with her favorite Jersey cow, Tina, at Pennypack Farm. PROVIDED

If you're a woman in the culinary industry interested in furthering your education, you should check out the scholarships offered by the Philadelphia chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier. This international organization of professional women was founded in 1973 and has been active locally since 1984, dedicated to education and philanthropy in food, beverage and hospitality.

Two scholarships are being offered this year with an application deadline of June 1. The first is a traditional academic scholarship of $3,000 for a woman pursuing a degree in the food, beverage and hospitality industry in the Philadelphia area. The second is a $1,000 scholarship to fund continuing education for a Philadelphia-based female food-industry professional to attend a food or farming-related conference to acquire new skills and network.

Natanya DiBona, president of Les Dames d'Escoffier Philadelphia, says of the scholarships: "We hope the awards can help further the recipients' training and inspire them to go even farther in their career." She adds, "Through the program, we also hope to introduce them into the Les Dames family and network them with our members who have diverse and many years of experience across food, beverage and hospitality."

Robin Kerber received a scholarship as a Drexel Student to intern at Pennypack Farm last year and fondly recalls her experience:

"The scholarship I received allowed me see if my interest and curiosity in growing food, rather than cooking it, was where my heart was," she says. "I discovered that your heart can be in two places at once, and have been pursuing a career in farming and cooking ever since."

For more information and to apply for one of the Les Dames d'Escoffier scholarships, visit: lesdamesphilly.org/scholarships.

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# Calling all yogis: $3M historic dream house

Your weekly dose of #RealEstatePorn.

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I never understood the appeal of yoga until about eight years ago, when I moved from the quintessential suburban town to North Philly. Being constantly swarmed by people on Temple's campus forced me to appreciate the quiet repose yoga promised. And then, as a reporter, it was a necessity for my sanity.

With only two words, this house captured my attention instantly: Yoga. Room.

A whole room, four walls and a door, dedicated to quiet time, meditation, and privacy. Oh my.

At 530 Spruce St., that's not the only selling point. This five bedroom National Landmark townhouse boasts of other luxurious amenities: A rooftop terrace, an inner courtyard, a three-car garage and heated floors. This might be the Holy Grail Home of Philadelphia. For a cool $2.9 million, that is.

Let's start on the ground floor, where a marble vestibule leads visitors into a grand hallway. Head into the grand formal dining room, with the home's original mantle and a black crystal chandelier, or continue into the kitchen, a chef's dream, decked out with top-of-the-line appliances, custom cabinetry and a custom copper hood, a copper farmhouse sink, quartz counters and an attached breakfast nook.

Upstairs, relax under vaulted ceilings in your private library, or head out to the interior deck that connects to the inner courtyard downstairs. Here is also where the master suite lives, with a fireplace, en-suite bath with heated floors, a soaking tub and marble stall shower, and a walk-in closet.

On the third floor, two more bedrooms are connected by a bathroom. Up another flight, the fourth floor has French doors leading out to a rooftop terrace, home to wine storage, a full spa bathroom with a sauna and the yoga studio. Still not impressed? This terrace leads to the roof, where yet another terrace welcomes the owner with incredible views and an Astroturf lawn.

But I was sold on that wine-yoga-sauna combo.

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# Is it too late for Eagles' Agholor to avoid being a bust?

Doug Pederson has been impressed with the embattled former first round pick as he makes a final stand to earn playing time.

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Last year at this time, Nelson Agholor was a former first round pick entering his sophomore NFL season with high expectations.

He was expected to go out and be the Eagles' second wide receiver on the depth chart — opposite Jordan Matthews — and post numbers to justify former Eagles' head coach Chip Kelly's decision to draft him 20th overall in 2015.

But as Eagles fans know full well, that didn't happen. It didn't even come close to happening.

In addition to a bevy of unforgettable costly drops, Agholor caught just 36 passes for 365 yards. That was when he could get himself on the field. The wideout was under so much pressure, a near mental breakdown saw him benched toward the end of the 2016 regular season.

With time to reflect and rejuvenate, the 23-year-old USC alum is in the second to last year of his guaranteed rookie contract and once again under a lot of pressure to perform. Eagles head coach Doug Pederson says, as OTAs start in South Philly, that he's off to a good start.

"Nelson's attitude has been great," the coach said. "He's worked extremely hard this offseason, the addition of [new wide receivers coach] Mike Groh has lit a fire a little bit and the additions of Alshon [Jeffery] and Torrey [Smith] — competition sharpens you and that's what I've seen from Nelson and he's done a great job already this spring."

The competition will be fierce all spring and summer, as Agholor will need to somehow vie for a spot on the 53-man roster against the likes of Jeffery, Smith, Jordan Matthews, Dorial Green-Beckham and newly drafted rookies Mack Hollins and Shelton Gibson.

Nelson Agholor likely has one last chance to show he deserves to be on the Eagles' 53-man roster. GETTY IMAGES

While the deck may be stacked against him, the cap penalty for an Agholor cut would dig deep as a cap penalty of nearly $3 million is higher than his 2017 salary. He is under contract in 2018 as well.

Teammate Brandon Graham is no stranger to the situation Agholor is dealing with. A former first round pick himsef, Graham was oft-criticized and called a bust before his past two seasons — seasons that earned him a contract extension and put him among the best pass-rushers in football.

"I think he's focused, I think he's ready, I think the worst has happened to him," Graham said. "The worst happened to me and now the pressure is off. Everyone labeled you the 'B' word, and now the pressure is off to prove yourself."

Pederson seems to feel the same way.

"The expectation is for him to compete to play, compete to start and compete to be a role player on this football team," Pederson said. "Be unselfish, be disciplined and compete to play."

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# Blount, Matthews excited for new NFL touchdown celebration rules

Two of the Eagles' top touchdown scorers give their takes on the NFL's new rules.

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
evan.macy@metro.us

Now that they can celebrate more freely, Philly hopes it can also celebrate more frequently in 2017. GETTY IMAGES

The NFL announced Tuesday a handful of rule changes for the upcoming season, and in the Eagles locker room the most popular was the laxing rules for touchdown celebrations. According to the NFL, players will be allowed to celebrate in groups, use the ball as a prop, create "snow angels" and a slew of other things that fans have missed in recent years.

"We know that you love the spontaneous displays of emotion that come after a spectacular touchdown," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in an announcement. "And players have told us they want more freedom to be able to express themselves and celebrate their athletic achievements."

However it will not be no-holds-barred, unregulated celebrating.

"Offensive demonstrations, celebrations that are prolonged and delay the game, and those directed at an opponent, will still be penalized," Goodell said.

What will Eagles wide receiver Jordan Matthews do with his new found celebration freedom?

"I don't know, man," Matthews, who has 19 touchdowns over three seasons, said after OTAs. "I did the Rocky a couple years ago, I might go to the meat locker and use the goal post."

Matthews, flanked in the upcoming season by Alshon Jeffery (26 career touchdowns) and Torrey Smith (37 touchdowns), and the Eagles are hoping their offense is a bit more explosive in 2017. Another newcomer LeGarrette Blount — who led the NFL in touchdowns last year with 18 for the Patriots — had a different take on the rule.

"I never even knew the rule in the first place," Blount told laughing receivers in the Eagles' locker room.

Another rule change, one shortening overtime periods from 15 to 10 minutes, is still a lacking solution — according to Matthews.

"I think the college way they do it is a lot more fair," Matthews said, referring to the NCAA's system which allows each offense a chance to score from the 25-yard line. "But who knows. I am trying to win games in regulation."

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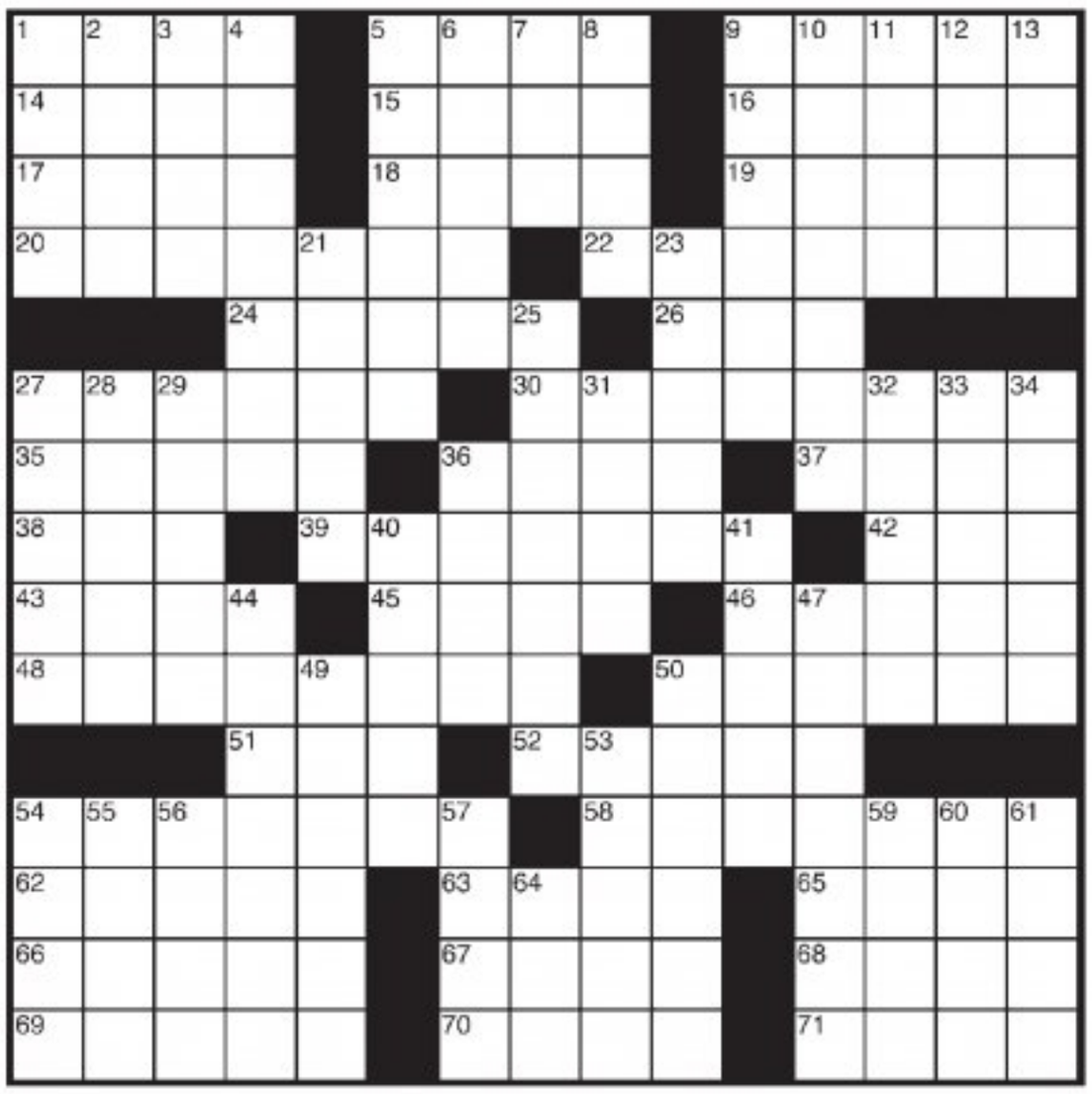
## metro.us/crossword

**Across**

1 Uses a microwave
5 Penicillin, e.g.
9 Took steps
14 Water or tel.
15 Waikiki setting
16 Diver's hazard
17 Solitary
18 Present
19 Martini garnish
20 Without help
22 Blurred
24 Lawn
26 Financial mag
27 Popeye's tattoo
30 Bluegrass State
35 Shoulder muscles
36 Give up land
37 Decorated tinware
38 Between pi and sigma
39 Least speedy
42 Narrow inlet
43 Assns.
45 In a dead heat
46 Grace enders
48 Easy pickings
50 Cauliflower bud
51 Late actress Mary –
52 Faint with pleasure
54 Hoopla
58 Curl
62 Hang – – (turn)
63 Simon or Diamond
65 Pledge
66 Long scarf
67 Social outing
68 Occupation
69 Slightly tinted
70 Took legal action
71 Command to a dog

**Down**

1 Miniseries "Shaka –"
2 Egyptian god
3 – colada
4 – of hand
5 Turn down a page (hyph.)
6 Attacks
7 TV band
8 Cleans fish
9 Total, say
10 Slice of ham (2 wds.)
11 Math subj.
12 Roof projection
13 Did Easter eggs
21 Smelting waste
23 Back to the salt –
25 Barbecue spits
27 – – in the bucket
28 Hindu statesman
29 Thick-soled footwear
31 Paradise
32 Kitchen tool
33 "Soapdish" actor
34 Baker's buy
36 Small bay
40 Crowbar
41 Eagle's gripper
44 Prepare to deal
47 Genghis Khan's people
49 Spouted rhetoric
50 Villain's lament
53 Correspond
54 Rapid
55 Choir member
56 Diner sign
57 Puts a stop to
59 Milk, to Yves
60 Volcano in Sicily
61 Not we
64 – de cologne



## metro.us/sudoku

**easy**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2 | | | 5 | | 4 | |
| | | | 6 | 1 | | | | 8 |
| 6 | | | | | | 9 | | 7 |
| | | 8 | 5 | | | 1 | | 2 |
| | | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | | |
| 5 | | 1 | | | 9 | 4 | | |
| 1 | | 7 | | | | | | 4 |
| 2 | | | | 8 | 6 | | | |
| | 8 | | 3 | | | 5 | | |

**hard**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 9 | | | | 7 | | 2 | |
| 6 | 7 | | 2 | | | 9 | | |
| | | | 9 | 6 | | | 7 | |
| | | | 7 | | | 4 | 8 | |
| 4 | 6 | | | 8 | | | 9 | 1 |
| | 8 | 2 | | | 1 | | | |
| | 2 | | | 7 | 4 | | | |
| | | 5 | | | 3 | | 6 | 7 |
| | 1 | | 8 | | | | 3 | |

## metro.us/horoscopes

**Aries** Uncertainty will make you question what you are doing. If you feel emotionally drained, consider your options. A change is all that's needed to improve your life.

**Taurus** Keep a level head when dealing with partnerships or people trying to get something from you. Strive for equality in order to maintain your integrity and reputation.

**Gemini** If you take care of your responsibilities first, you'll have more fun later in the day doing the things you've been looking forward to. Timing is everything.

**Cancer** Spend time with someone who brings out the best in you. Being a team player will bring good results. Your popularity will grow if you reach out and offer help.

**Leo** Think and do. If you spend too much time talking or trying to iron out your differences with someone, you will not get anything done. Personal gains can be made.

**Virgo** Take part in what's going on around you. Whether you join a group, get together with your peers or attend a lecture, you will learn from the experience.

**Libra** Home improvements can be made. A practical approach will help you achieve your goal. Don't hire someone when you can do the work yourself.

**Scorpio** Taking a day trip with someone you love with will lead to interesting conversations. If you collaborate, good ideas will turn into something concrete.

**Sagittarius** Listen to what others say, but don't get involved in gossip. Meddling in other people's affairs will result in a backlash that could hurt your reputation.

**Capricorn** You'll have a good handle on what's doable, so don't listen to someone trying to get you to invest in something that isn't right for you.

**Aquarius** Keep your thoughts to yourself to avoid getting into an emotionally disruptive discussion. Stay focused on making personal changes that will enhance your well-being.

**Pisces** Share your feelings, plans and concerns with someone you care about. You will get the comfort and help you are looking for if you are honest and heartfelt. EUGENIA LAST

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| M | E | L | B | O | U | R | N | E | ■ | E | D | I | T | S |
| P | R | E | ■ | S | T | O | A | ■ | A | M | I | S | S | ■ |
| S | A | S | S | I | E | R | ■ | O | B | I | E | ■ | ■ | ■ |
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